

they gather for their 50-year high school reunion.

I am proud to congratulate all of this class as they bring old friends together and celebrate everything they have accomplished since their graduation 50 years ago.

As students at M.B. Smiley, these individuals were instilled with the values of a strong work ethic, leadership, and service which enabled them to succeed in whatever endeavor they chose later in life. This has been made evident by the many educators, doctors, lawyers, community leaders, and elected officials that have gone on to excel in their personal and professional lives. Through their dedication and commitment, many have left a lasting impact on their communities and the people around them—ensuring the preservation of the strong legacy of M.B. Smiley High School.

After graduation, numerous young men and women from the class of '68 went on to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War—with some paying the ultimate sacrifice for our country. These great individuals selflessly fulfilled their duty and defended our Nation in a time of war, and we thank them for their steadfast service and dedication to country.

As this group of former students once again joins together to meet with their fellow classmates from the class of 1968, I am proud to recognize this momentous occasion and wish them the best as they celebrate their 50-year reunion.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JACOB RUIZ

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Major Jacob Ruiz as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Major Jacob Ruiz raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and moved to the mainland U.S. at 12 years old. He is a former Marine, who began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts.

He later relocated to South Florida where he worked for the Broward Sheriff's Office and then as a Police Officer with the Lauderhill Police Department. In 2003, Major Ruiz relocated to Central Florida where he began his career with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

Major Ruiz has worked as a Patrol Deputy, School Resource Officer, Persons Crimes detective and SWAT team operator. Major Ruiz attained the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and in 2017, he was promoted to Captain by Sheriff Russell Gibson and later that year to Major.

Major Ruiz oversees the administration of the School Safety Division, Court Services Division and is the director of Media and Public Relations for the sheriff's office. He is the father of four children; Sara, Jaylin, Ellie and Jacob Jr. and they are his proudest and most important part of his life.

Major Ruiz holds degrees in Homeland Security, History and currently attends Rollins College's Executive MBA program. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's Command Officers Development Course from the University of Louisville and a board member of the Osceola Hispanic Business Council and the Osceola Boys and Girls Club.

Major Ruiz has been instrumental in uniting and engaging the community with their local sheriff's office. Major Ruiz works to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the Hispanic Community that may exist from time to time, through communication, education and community service, in efforts of reinforcing the greatness of our Central FL Community.

Major Ruiz is intentional in celebrating inclusion and diversity throughout our community and does this while also being committed to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREW TORGET

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Andrew Torget, a history professor at the University of North Texas, on his record-breaking accomplishment. This summer, he set out to teach the entire history of Texas in one continuous lecture. Dr. Torget's passion for the Portal to Texas History motivated him to use his world record lecture to raise money for the preservation of historic documents.

During this very long lecture, Dr. Torget taught the history of the Lone Star State, from prehistoric times to present day. Speaking for 26 hours straight, Dr. Torget raised nearly \$20,000 to help chronicle and preserve the history of Texas. Through social media coverage and a live-stream of the event, people as far away as Ireland heard the stories of our great State.

As an alum of the University of North Texas, I am particularly honored to congratulate him on this world-renowned achievement. It is an honor to represent Dr. Torget and the University of North Texas, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF OL' BILL—MR. BILL CARTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, way out west, Texas that is, where one can always find a back road and porch with a rocking chair, are towns like Spring, Texas and Laredo, Texas. Here, one could always find Mr. Bill Carter telling stories about how he grew up, sharing past hunting adventures, and explaining how he started Carter's Country.

Ol' Bill in his starched jeans, crisp shirt, and worn boots was a fine businessman, hunter, husband, father, and devoted family man. He spent his entire life building his family business, enjoying the outdoors, and serving his community. Spring, Texas and the entire state of Texas lost a legend of a man on October 2, 2018.

Bill was born in 1934, in a small town in North Carolina. As a child, his love for firearms began at the age of eleven when he bought a used Winchester 22 pump. During this time, his love of the outdoors grew. And

at an early age he began delivering papers, he was an entrepreneur in the making.

During high school years, Bill joined the North Carolina National Guard. After graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps. His lifelong passion for firearms deepened. He considered a career with the Marine Corps, but decided to leave in 1956 to continue his education.

After returning from the Korean War, Bill realized college was not for him. He became a seaman on a merchant ship. While sailing routes from Houston to New Jersey, he discovered a love for the Houston area. At the end of his shipping route, he met his future wife, Ellen, in New Jersey.

Bill and Ellen married and soon talked her into moving to Houston. He got a job as an ironworker, and Ellen worked in the emergency room as a registered nurse at Hermann Hospital. He soon started doing custom gun work in his garage for his ironworker friends. His wide-ranging knowledge of guns made him well known in the Houston area. Through Bill and Ellen's hard work and dedication, they purchased 15 acres of land and a gun club on Aldine Westfield near FM 1960.

In 1969, business was booming so they purchased a larger piece of property off Treaschwig in Spring, Texas. This location is currently Carter's Country headquarters. Ellen retired from nursing and helped with everyday business. They had two kids, Billy and Lori. Billy and Lori took over many Carter responsibilities and both play an important role in the Carter legacy.

Bill's love of outdoors and passion for hunting brought him to ranching. In the late 70s, he purchased Sombrero Ranch in South Texas. He treasured managing a 100% native South Texas deer herd. His bucks have the famous 10-point genes. His 11,000 acre ranch was originally part of the Spanish land grant, and now it is known for producing some of the best trophy bucks in North America.

Today, the Carter's have four retail stores, a gun range, and elk and whitetail hunting ranches. It is my hope that Bill's legacy will be remembered and folks will see if a humble southern boy with modest beginnings can achieve his American dream, they can too. Of course—with hard work, perseverance, passion and dedication. I consider it an honor to have known this true Texas cowboy and have him as a friend.

My thoughts are with the love of his life, Ellen, and their two children. They all share the same passion for the great Texas outdoors. His memory will live on, in the many lives he touched along the way. Texas will miss Ol' Bill, Happy Trails.

Semper Fi.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING 2018 BALDWIN COUNTY REACH RECIPIENTS

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Talexia Brooks, Luna Espinoza, Isabella Harp, Isaac Harris, and McKinsey Pennamon for being selected as 2018 REACH Scholars for Baldwin County, Georgia.